Administrative Council for Extension and Experiment Station Research Meeting
Friday, March 7, 2025
1:30-3:00 p.m.
130 Burruss Hall Conference Room

AGENDA

Participants
Tim Hodge, Brennan Shepard, Don Taylor, Paul Winistorfer, Mike Gutter, Mary Burrows, Elizabeth Hooper, Simon Allen, Mallory Miller, Mario Ferruzzi, Beth Ebel, Dan Givens, Dan Sui, Rebekah Gunn

Welcome and Introductions (Don Taylor)

Discussion Items

Approval of Meeting Minutes (Don Taylor)
The February meeting minutes were electronically distributed with the agenda. The minutes were reviewed and approved by the council.

VAES 2024 Stakeholder Needs Assessment (Mary Burrows)
Mary Burrows shared the results of the VAES 2024 Stakeholder Needs Assessment. Mary shared that VAES will continue to refine the assessment and plan to include more stakeholders in future years. The results will inform future investments.

NIFA Audit (Mario Ferruzzi)
Mario Ferruzzi provided an update on the NIFA audit. Mario stressed the need for timely collaboration across multiple units to compile required information. Mario will update the Provost once the data collection is complete.

Supporting Sea Grant (Mario Ferruzzi)
Mario Ferruzzi shared information about the Sea Grant with the council; noting that partners are supportive. Mario will work with Government Relations to gather more information to determine participation.

Eastern Virginia Space Request (Mary Burrows)
Mary Burrows shared an opportunity to purchase land in eastern Virginia. This would be an opportunity for the Eastern AREC to continue using land that is currently being leased and expand around a high priority area.

Rescue Squad Site Location (Mario Ferruzzi)
Mario Ferruzzi discussed the new Virginia Tech Rescue Squad site location, which is land next to the drone cage. Several on-campus sites were reviewed through a feasibility study. The college will continue to work with the Vice President for Campus Planning, Infrastructure, and Facilities to address land needs associated with the site selection.

Unit Updates

Virginia Cooperative Extension (Mike Gutter)

Mike Gutter provided an update on VCE engagement events including meeting with members of the General Assembly. VCE is in the final stages of strategic planning efforts and has engaged in two stakeholder pre-roll out meetings. Insights from those meetings are helping to refine the plan.

Mike provided an update on the new PARES system and will present on the use and impact of the system in a future meeting.

VCE and Office of Outreach and International Affairs are continue to engage and deepen partnership between the two units. This can be seen in the Southwest where the units are co-located.

Agricultural Experiment Station (Mary Burrows)

Mary Burrows shared that AES participated in CARET meetings a few weeks ago in DC. A graduate student was included in the Virginia Tech group which was an added value. Mary noted that it was a good opportunity to talk and learn from peers and government officials.

Mary attended the recent Virginia Agricultural Council meeting. The Virginia Agricultural Council provides about $200K annually to faculty projects.

Mary provided the AREC field days schedule.

Deans

Mario Ferruzzi, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, provided an update on faculty hiring searches.

Mario also provided an update on federal grants and the impact of the changing federal landscape on the college.

The college is collaborating with the university to address historical site concerns on Kentland Farm property.

Paul Winistorfer, dean of the College of Natural Resources and Environment, provided an update on federal grants and the impact of the changing federal landscape on the college.

Paul also provided an update on the Center Woods construction project. The project required a revised building plan. With Board of Visitor approval, the facility should be complete by late 2027.

Dan Givens, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, provided an update on on-going faculty searches and faculty achievements.

Budget and Finance

The AVP for budget and financial planning, Tim Hodge, provided an overview of the state budget and impacts on Agency 229. The group discussed the inclusion of a compensation and bonus program in the state budget.

The VP for Finance, Simon Allen, shared that the university is working on scenarios to manage uncertainty. Simon encouraged fiscal responsibility in these times of uncertainty.

OVPRI

The senior VP for research and innovation, Dan Sui, provided an update on the research enterprise and the impacts of the changing federal landscape.

Government and Community Relations

Elizabeth Hooper provided a state budget timeline. Noting that the Governor is expected to hand down budget amendments within the next few weeks. Much of the funding is one-time in FY2025.

Rebekah Gunn shared a federal budget timeline. Noting that to avoid a government shutdown, a continuing resolution on FY2024 is expected.